

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed May 24, 2007, Applicant submits this Amendment accompanied by a petition for a three-month extension of time. By way of this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 10, 23, and 25 are amended, and claim 24 is canceled. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 25 can be found in original claims 3 and 27, respectively, for example. Support for amended claim 23 can be found in original claim 23. Claims 3 and 10 are amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is added.

Upon the electronic filing of this paper, the Patent Office was authorized to charge the appropriate extension fee to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. No additional fees are believed to be necessary for proper entry and consideration of this Amendment. Nevertheless, if the Office deems otherwise, kindly charge the cost thereof to Deposit Account No. 13-2855, Order No. 30071/40493.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the following remarks, Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the Office to acknowledge the same.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 24 has been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 23 stands objected to for allegedly constituting a multiple-dependent claim that depends from another multiple-dependent claim. In accordance with the claim amendments effectuated by Applicant's Preliminary Amendment dated October 19, 2004, however, Applicant respectfully submits that previously presented claim 23 does not depend from another multiple-dependent claim. Nevertheless, to expedite the prosecution of the present application to allowance, Applicant has amended claim 23 herein to depend only from claim 21.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this claim objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 AND §103

Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-22, 25-30, 32, 33, 35-40, 42-44, 46, 48, and 50-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Aidlin (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,789). Additionally, claims 10, 17, 31, 34, 41, 45, 47, 48, 53, and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Aidlin in view of Leonard (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,528), Ouelette (U.S. Patent No. 6,318,935), or Kehrel (U.S. Patent No. 5,099,979).

Independent claims 1 and 25 are amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly recite the subject matter of the application. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to more clearly recite a conveyor line comprising a plurality of moveable stops that are placeable at several preset positions for delimiting the position of at least one guide railing. Similarly, claim 25 is amended to recite an actuator drive comprising a plurality of moveable stops that can be arranged at several preset positions in a stop body to delineate an adjustment path for at least one guide railing.

Neither Aidlin nor any other art of record discloses or suggests such movable stops in combination with guide railings, as recited in amended claims 1 and 25.

For example, Aidlin discloses a bottle guide assembly comprising a guide rail positioning device that includes first and second “blocks,” which constitute conventional cylinders. The blocks are fixed together in an end-to-end relationship, as illustrated in Figs. 7-10. The blocks define opposing end walls and a center wall. The walls are fixed in position by the construction of the blocks. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the walls operate as “stops” to delimit the position of a pair of pistons 48, 58 carried within the blocks.

Aidlin does not disclose that the walls, i.e., the “stops,” are movable between preset positions in combination with the other features recited in amended claims 1 and 25 of the present application. Moreover, by teaching walls, i.e., “stops,” that are unequivocally fixed, Aidlin does not suggest stops that are movable between preset positions.

In the Office Action, the Office identifies elements 54, 55, and 60 of Aidlin as constituting “stops.” *See* Page 3, line 3. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the Office has misconstrued the teachings of Aidlin. Elements 54 and

55 of Aidlin identify “ports” in the block for communicating with a pneumatic line, for example. See Aidlin, col. 5, lines 21-30. Moreover, reference numeral 60 of Aidlin merely identifies one of the first and second “blocks” that constitute the pneumatic cylinder. See Aidlin, col. 5, line 34. One of ordinary skill in the art would not understand the ports to be “stops,” because they do not delimit the guide rails. Moreover, while one of ordinary skill in the art could understand that at least a portion of the block 60 is a stop, the block 60 is not “optionally positionable” between preset positions to delimit the position of the guide rail, as recited in claim 1, and the block 60 cannot be arranged in preset positions defined by a stop body, as recited in claim 25.

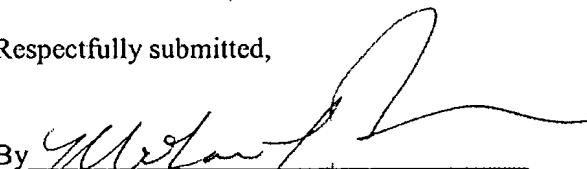
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all outstanding objections, rejections, and other concerns have been either accommodated, traversed, or rendered moot. Therefore, the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues that the Office believes may be remedied via telephone conference, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (312) 474-6300.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael P. Furmanek
Registration No.: 58,495
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300
Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300
Attorney for Applicant